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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

List of issues and questions in relation to the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Mali

Addendum

Replies of Mali*

[Date received: 10 March 2016]

Note: The present document is being circulated in English, French and Spanish only.
* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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General context

1. **The State party has been facing challenging times marked by a near breakdown of public administration, school closures, the destruction of health-care facilities and the displacement of populations to southern Mali and neighbouring countries following the occupation of northern and central Mali by radical Islamic groups (jihadists) in 2012. The continuing hostilities in the State party have had a severe impact on civilians, in particular women, who face increased levels of discrimination and violence, including sexual violence. Consequently, there has been a setback in access to health care and education for the most vulnerable groups, increasing insecurity, food shortages and insufficient provision of health care, in particular in the northern region. This has also had a negative impact on the implementation of the Convention. Given the obligation of the State party, as outlined in the Committee's general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, to apply the Convention in all crisis situations, including during conflict, please provide information on measures taken and mechanisms in place to mitigate the impact of the conflict on the lives of women and girls, protect them from violence, and ensure that the entrenched discrimination against them is not further exacerbated.**

- The establishment of an independent commission for truth, justice, peace and security to lead the process of national reconciliation.
- The opportunity for an inclusive dialogue led to the signing of a peace agreement by all parties to the conflict on 20 June 2015 that provides for institution building, demobilization and the reintegration of former combatants and victims (including women).
- The adoption of a new 2015-2017 action plan for the further implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related matters, following the plan covering the period 2012-2014. The plan takes into account the impact of the crisis on women and girls, as well as the aspirations of the international community. It is the unifying instrument for all operational actions related to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
- The commitment of the Government of Mali to adhere to the three principles of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), namely: prevention, participation and reconstruction.
- The establishment of a basket fund to finance the action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
- The commitment to establish a team of experts to coordinate the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related matters, while ensuring coherence in the actions of various stakeholders and regular reporting to the State, its partners and the international community.
- Assistance to families affected by the crisis (displaced families and those remaining in conflict zones) through the free distribution of food and other emergency kits.
- The adoption of measures for the rehabilitation and opening of schools and health centres in conflict-affected areas.

- The establishment of two new regions in northern Mali and the appointment of their governors.
- The signature of agreements between the State, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the host country for the return of displaced persons.
- The adoption of specific action plans for the regions badly affected by the crisis.
- The establishment of two ministries overseeing the rebuilding of northern Mali and national reconciliation.

Please also provide information on the type of alternative sources of livelihood for family survival and the assistance provided, in particular for female-headed households

- The activation of clusters by the United Nations system (protection; water, sanitation and hygiene; health; nutrition; and education). The clusters consist of State technical services, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They operate in conflict zones where the State is either partially or totally absent and provide assistance to people in emergency situations there, especially women and children.
- The adoption by Mali of minimum protection standards.
- Support for populations in areas hosting and providing assistance (including accommodation, food, health care and schooling) to displaced persons.

Legislative and institutional framework

2. **Please indicate whether the State party envisages undertaking, within a specific time frame, the overdue review of its legislation, in particular the Family Code, to identify and repeal discriminatory provisions against women, especially the provisions reducing the age of marriage from 18 to 16 years for girls, and provisions granting parents legal permission to give in marriage minor girl children who have reached the customary threshold of maturity, which is the first menstrual cycle. Please provide information on the measures taken and/or envisaged to harmonize legislation in order to eliminate the discrimination against women created by the current coexistence of statutory, customary and religious laws that define women's rights, in particular women's right to land, including inheritance of land.**

Access to justice

3. **It is indicated in the combined sixth and seventh reports of the State party (CEDAW/C/MLI/6-7) that, in relation to access to justice, women are faced with obstacles such as unwieldy judicial procedures, lack of information and assistance, administrative delays, high legal and court costs and the absence of sensitivity to gender issues and women's rights by some judicial actors and**

court officers (paras. 201 to 210).[1] Please provide information on the measures, apart from legal aid services, taken to overcome the impediments faced by women in gaining access to justice and, in particular, the gender insensitivity of judicial actors and court officers and the minimal references to the Convention by judges in support of their decisions. Please explain how the programme for the reform of the justice sector has contributed to the elimination of those impediments. Please also provide information on the resources allocated to the legal assistance fund and on the conditions for gaining access to it. Please indicate the number of women who have benefited from the fund.

4. **Please provide information on the steps taken to provide training for legal professionals, including judges, prosecutors and lawyers, and other actors responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. Please also indicate the measures taken to ensure that customary justice systems are not discriminatory against women.**

- Customary and religious leaders have been involved in all reform processes affecting popular sensibilities.
- Advocacy sessions have been initiated for traditional and religious authorities.
- A Ministry for Religious Affairs and Worship has been established within the Government to better coordinate and guide the actions of the aforementioned authorities.

National machinery for the advancement of women

5. **It is indicated that the Ministry of Women, Children and the Family developed a framework document for 2008-2012 geared towards strengthening women's economic capacities, developing women's leadership and promoting a gender approach in projects and programmes (para. 21). It is also stated that the State party adopted a national gender policy and action plan for the period 2011-2013 (para. 22). Please provide information on whether there has been an impact assessment of the programmes and the action plan to ascertain whether any progress has been made in the advancement of women as a result of their implementation. Please also provide information on the measures envisaged by the State party as a follow-up to the expired framework document and action plan.**

6. **It is indicated that an audit of the National Directorate for the Advancement of Women revealed shortcomings and gaps in the organization and functional modalities of the Directorate (para. 9). Please indicate, in particular, the measures taken to ensure that the Directorate is provided with adequate decision-making capacity and the financial and human resources necessary for the implementation of its activities. Please also indicate whether there are institutions in charge of gender equality and the empowerment of women at the regional, municipal and community levels and, if there are, whether coordination between the Directorate and the subnational institutions is ensured.**

[1] Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers refer to the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Mali.

- Measures are under way for the revision of texts on the organizational framework, and on the organization and operating procedures of central, regional and subregional services for the advancement of women, children and the family.
- A regional directorate for the advancement of women, children and the family, under the National Directorate for the Advancement of Women, operates in each region and in the Bamako District (i.e. 9 regional directorates).

Within each municipality and within the six communes of the Bamako District, a local service for the advancement of women, children and the family has been established under the competent regional directorate (i.e. 55 local services).

Please provide information on whether there has been an impact assessment of the programmes and the action plan to ascertain whether any progress has been made in the advancement of women as a result of their implementation

The Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families developed a framework document for the period 2008-2012.

This document, adopted by the Council of Ministers, is built around the following strategic guidelines geared towards the advancement of women:

- Strengthening women's economic capacities
- Developing women's leadership
- Promoting the gender approach in projects and programmes

For each strategic guideline, projects or programmes and action plans were developed. Impact assessments were conducted for some of these programmes.

First guideline: Strengthening women's economic capacities

Related projects were:

- The credit system for the socioeconomic development of rural women (Credit and Savings Scheme for Women, SYCREF)
- *Projet Karité* (a project to support women's groups in shea production)
- The Programme to Support Women Economic Actors
- The National Programme to Develop Multifunctional Platforms

Achievements: these programmes have contributed to the socioeconomic development of women:

- The development and strengthening of rural women's economic capacities in programme areas through the women's credit system
- The implementation of *Projet Karité* (a project to support women's groups in shea production), involving the manufacturing of high quality shea butter and other products (food, soap, pomade, etc.) by rural women, has contributed to their economic development in the following ways:

- 84 rural women's groups have formed cooperatives
- 50 groups have received start-up kits for the production of shea
- 32 groups have received marketing funding (500,000 to 600,000 CFA francs per group)
- There are six shea butter production centres, including three major food production units in Ségou, Dioïla and Sikasso

The National Programme to Develop Multifunctional Platforms

After a pilot phase of the Multifunctional Platform Project (from 1995 to 1998), an outreach phase (from 1999 to 2004), a transitional phase (from 2005 to 2007) and a dissemination phase (from 2008 to 2013), Mali, building upon its successes in the development and dissemination of over 1,000 multifunctional platforms, has been seeking to achieve a real scaling up since 2015.

The National Programme to Develop Multifunctional Platforms is the outcome of a consistent process of testing and disseminating multidimensional service modules (multifunctional platforms) in Mali, especially to lighten the workload for women, to improve the living conditions of rural populations in general and of women in particular, and to reduce poverty through access to motive power and subsequently to electricity and safe drinking water.

The programme is under the institutional authority of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families, which will work closely with all relevant national institutions (ministries and others) according to a purpose-built management system.

The overall vision behind this programme is to continue improving people's living conditions and consolidating peace and security in Mali by scaling up multifunctional platforms and by installing and using this tool on an ongoing basis for local development, for the advancement of women, and for gender-sensitive rural job creation and income generation.

The programme is structured around five (5) separate but organically linked components:

1. Consolidating achievements from earlier phases;

2. Maximizing and disseminating achievements from earlier phases;

3. Scaling up, extending and expanding the multifunctional platforms' installation areas in Mali;

4. Making multifunctional platforms viable and sustainable conceptually and operationally;

5. Promoting the concept of multifunctional platforms and mobilizing technical and financial partnerships at the national and international levels.

The programme's relevance and economic importance stem from the growing need for modern energy services in rural and peri-urban areas of Mali, including power and electricity, whose economic potential is still largely underexploited. It also responds to the objectives of the global Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which

emphasizes promoting the use of renewable energy and access to modern energy services.

The programme's objectives and approach are consistent with the new strategic approach to economic recovery, peacebuilding and support for the population in general and for people affected by the crisis in particular. It provides, inter alia, an effective and sustainable response to certain post-crisis demands and it sees recovery, resilience and lasting solutions as factors in the fight against poverty, disparities and asymmetries in local and regional development.

It is aligned with the policy statement issued by the Prime Minister on 29 April 2014, in particular with Focus VII thereof (Social Development), which makes reference to the country's national gender policy adopted on 24 November 2010, and to the goal of increasing the contribution of women and youth to economic and social development through "support for this programme to implement a multifunctional platform for women in 5,000 villages in Mali" (5,000 multifunctional platforms).

The programme, to be implemented over five years (2015-2019), will be in synergy with the range of actions already under way for the advancement of women, energy management, job creation, poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Mali. It will directly benefit 5,000 towns, each with an average of 1,500 residents (totalling around 7.5 million people), over 50 per cent of whom (3.75 million) are women.

The Programme to Support Women Economic Actors

Women's organizational and managerial capacities have been strengthened by the implementation of the Programme to Support Women Economic Actors (in trade, handicrafts, dyeing, hairdressing, catering, etc.).

Second guideline: Developing women's leadership

This guideline substantially contributed towards the advancement of women in Mali, with the implementation of projects such as:

The Project to Support Strengthening Gender Equity through Reduction of Economic and Sociopolitical Disparities (PAREHF3)

This third project is part of efforts to combat poverty and promote gender equality between men and women. It was preceded by PAREHF1 and PAREHF2 (Projects to Support Strengthening Gender Equity for Poverty Eradication and Good Governance). All achieved the expected results in the following areas: female literacy; gender training; support for rural women's groups in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector; and technical and material capacity-building for women's groups;

Seven market gardening projects were established in Konondimini (Ségou), Bla, Niessoumana (Niono), Doui (Tominian), Diarakungo, Benan and Palasso (Yorosso), for a total of 874 beneficiaries, including 33 men;

1,176 women were trained/sensitized in the concept of cooperative dynamics in 42 villages from the municipalities of Ségou, Yorosso, San, Kadiolo and Sikasso;

- 90 members of 4 cooperatives from Ségou, Sikasso, San and Loulouni were trained in cooperative management

- 19 women in 7 villages from the municipality of Yorosso were trained and assisted in establishing cooperatives
- A cooperative management book was made available to groups in the Bamanankan language

Project to Support Improvement of the Status of Women and Gender Equity (PAASFEG)

This project provides the following support in the area of women's rights and gender:

- Awareness-raising, training and informing women in the general population about women's rights and gender
- Training on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Capacity-Building Project for Women's Organizations in Mali (RECOFEM)

The main objective of the project during phase I (2005-2009) was to professionalize women's umbrella organizations in order to facilitate their effective and efficient interface with the Government and enhance the capacity of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families to play its role as the guarantor of gender equity and better living conditions for women.

The second phase of the RECOFEM project aims to strengthen the project's institutional capacity and consolidate its achievements in order to continue building the capacities of women's organizations and supporting the Government of Mali to better steer national gender policy and development efforts.

Achievements:

- Training of women's organizations
- Technical and material capacity-building for women's organizations
- Provision of equipment to women's organizations and associations

Project for Equality between the Sexes (PROJES)

This project has supported the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families in drafting the national gender policy. (Some major achievements from the implementation of PROJES are highlighted below)

Project to build self-help centres for rural women and shelters for women and children

There are currently 10 shelters for women and children and 24 self-help centres.

Technical, organizational and financial capacity-building and training for women's groups and organizations take place in these centres and shelters for women and children. In this sense, they contribute greatly to the development of women through their effective participation in the economic and social development of their community.

In addition to being a meeting place for women to engage in income-generating activities, most of the shelters for women and children provide holistic care to victims of violence.

Action plan for national gender policy (2011-2013)

The first action plan for national gender policy covered the period 2011-2013. It included ten (10) priority areas where the State's commitments were clearly specified. These areas were: justice, education, health, employment and professional training, rural development, water, decentralization, State reform, fiscal reform and communication.

This plan was evaluated in 2015. The full implementation of the plan suffered as a result of the political, institutional and security crisis that occurred in Mali in 2012, the lack of bodies in charge of national gender policy and their ineffectiveness. Many planned activities could not be carried out owing to the suspension of cooperation programmes and the lack of domestic funding as a result of budget cuts made by the Government.

Third guideline: promoting the gender approach in projects and programmes

Programme to combat violence against women and girls, 2012-2017

Many actions have already been carried out under this programme, which has yet to be evaluated owing to the crisis that has plagued the country since 2012 and has led to other forms of unprecedented violence in Mali.

These actions include: training of trainers on gender-based violence; establishing a network of traditional communicators to combat violence; identifying and treating victims; and commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, marked by intensive outreach, awareness-raising, advocacy and training activities on violence.

Please also provide information on the measures envisaged by the State party as a follow-up to the expired framework document and action plan

- The national gender policy has not yet expired. However, it will be reviewed through the new 2016-2018 strategic plan for implementation of the national gender policy, currently being developed. The plan will be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and will take into account the guidelines of the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD) instead of the Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction (CSCRP).
- The new 2014-2018 multifunctional platform project document was adopted in the Council of Ministers.
- The national programme to combat excision (second generation) is being implemented (2014-2018).

- A national study on violence will be conducted with a view to taking into account new forms of violence, resulting from the crisis in Mali.
- The results of this study will lead to the drafting of the national programme to combat violence against women and girls (second generation), scheduled for this year, 2016.

Please indicate, in particular, the measures taken to ensure that the Directorate is provided with adequate decision-making capacity and the financial and human resources necessary for the implementation of its activities

After the organizational audit of the National Directorate for the Advancement of Women, the texts were reviewed. Following this review, the organizational frameworks of the central and decentralized services were prepared and validated. This enabled the preparation of the different descriptions corresponding to each post, which contain the descriptions of the implementation of activities and required competences. A procedural manual was also developed.

Please also indicate whether there are institutions in charge of gender equality and the empowerment of women at the regional, municipal and community levels and, if there are, whether coordination between the Directorate and the subnational institutions is ensured

Thanks to the adoption of the national gender policy, in November 2010, a decree on the establishment of institutional mechanisms for the promotion, coordination and follow-up of the national gender policy was adopted, in May 2014. It consists of four main bodies:

- The Supreme Council of the National Gender Policy
- The Sectoral Commission for Gender Mainstreaming in the Ministries
- The Permanent Secretariat for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Gender Policy
- The Regional Gender Monitoring Committee

The Government of Mali has established a Support Fund for the Empowerment of Women and Child Development to promote the economic empowerment of women. The Fund is managed and administered by a technical unit under the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Families. Launched in 2015, the Fund has supported 96 projects submitted by women's organizations. The Fund has three windows, structured around the following areas: (i) window 1: women entrepreneurs; (ii) window 2: female leadership and political participation; (iii) window 3: socioeconomic reintegration of children in difficult circumstances.

Disadvantaged groups of women

Please indicate the measures taken to further increase access to credit by rural women, including bank loans and land as a productive resource

Women's rights are taken into account in the Agricultural Guidance Act, adopted by the National Assembly of Mali in 2006. The Act addresses issues related to the right to social welfare, health, land and bank loans.

The Government of Mali has set up a National Fund for Agricultural Development. The Fund finances projects involved in the processing of food products, where women are very active.

In 2015, under the land policy adopted by the Government of Mali, 15 per cent of land improved by the State was reserved for women and youth. Women and youth received 10 per cent of the equipment provided by the State under its mechanization of agriculture projects.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

7. **Excision, forced marriage and/or marriage at a very young age are listed among the practices that the State party regards as harmful to the health of women and children (para. 133). Furthermore, in the report dated 12 March 2013 of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/23/6), it is stated that the State party accepted the recommendation to enact legislation prohibiting all forms of traditional practice of female genital mutilation in line with recommendations made by the Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (ibid. para. 112.17). Please provide information on the steps taken to eliminate those practices and to assess the impact of the efforts made to educate and raise awareness about the harmful effect of such practices on girls and women. Please also indicate the measures envisaged to accelerate the adoption and entry into force of legislation criminalizing all forms of female genital mutilation and child and/or forced marriage.**

Please provide information on the steps taken to eliminate those practices and to assess the impact of the efforts made to educate and raise awareness about the harmful effect of such practices on girls and women

Female genital mutilation/cutting are customary practices in Mali. They are practiced in all regions of Mali, to varying degrees. According to the Malian Demographic and Health Survey, 69 per cent of girls under 15 and 91 per cent of women aged 15-49 years have already been victims of this practice in the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou and Mopti (excluding the municipalities of Douentza, Ténenkou and Youwarou) and the Bamako District).

Steps taken to eliminate those practices

To abandon the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting, the Malian State, in cooperation with social partners and development partners, has established

coordinating structures and bodies; laws and regulations; and policies and programmes.

(a) Coordinating structures:

- The national programme to combat excision, whose primary mission is the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of activities against the practice of cutting in Mali, was established by Ordinance No. 02-053/PM-RM of 4 June 2002).
- The National Committee for the Abandonment of Harmful Practices (CNAPN) and its branches in the regions, municipalities, communes and villages, was established by Decree No. 99-157/P-RM of 16 June 1999). These committees bring together stakeholders at various levels.

(b) Legislative and regulatory measures:

- Law No. 02-044 of 24 June 2002 concerning reproductive health.
- Circular No. 0019/MSPAS-SG of 16 January 1999, from the Minister of Health, Solidarity and the Elderly, to prohibit the practice of excision in health facilities.
- Ratification of international and regional instruments on the rights of the child and women: (Convention on the Rights of the Child); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).

(c) Policies and programmes

- National policy on the abandonment of the practice of excision and the corresponding five-year plans of action for the abandonment of the practice of excision (2010-2014 and 2015-2019).
- National gender policy.
- Policy on reproductive health standards and procedures.
- National policy for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.
- Inclusion of the subject of excision in national development programmes such as PRODESS III (health and social development programme); economic, social and cultural development programmes.

(d) Activities:

- Mobilization of the State's human, material and financial resources, as well as social and development partners, to finance and implement projects and programmes against the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting.
- Observation of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation on 6 February.
- Strengthening communication for social behavioural change in communities: campaigns to raise awareness and to care for girls and women who are victims

of complications arising from female genital mutilation/cutting; intra- and inter-community exchanges.

l. Steps taken to assess the impact of the efforts made to educate and raise awareness about the harmful effect of such practices on girls and women

- Conducting studies and evaluation surveys on changes in communities (perceptions, approaches, achievements and challenges).
- Revitalizing consultative frameworks to enhance synergies and capitalize on data.
- Providing follow-up, support and advice to tailor messages to the target audience.

Please also indicate the measures envisaged to accelerate the adoption and entry into force of legislation criminalizing all forms of female genital mutilation and child and/or forced marriage

- Drafting a decree to establish a commission to monitor the law against the practice of excision.
- Advocacy work with institutions of the Republic (elected officials and decision makers) and opinion leaders.
- Training and awareness-raising for administrative and political decision makers on female genital mutilation/cutting.
- Public statements and the signing of local community agreements on the abandonment of excision.
- Review of draft and proposed legislation against the practice of excision.

8. **Information before the Committee indicates that domestic violence, including incest and marital rape, and sexual violence and harassment, are widespread, although specific data on their prevalence are not available. Please provide detailed information on the current situation and trends with respect to violence against women and girls, including incest, rape and marital rape, and on the number of prosecutions and convictions in all cases of violence against women. Please explain whether the State party envisages establishing systematic and regular collection and analysis of data and information on all forms of violence against women.**

9. **Information available to the Committee indicates that a five-year national action plan to combat violence against women was launched in 2006. Please indicate whether an assessment of the impact of the action plan was conducted and, if it was, what the outcome was. Please provide information on whether the State party envisages adopting a national strategy to combat violence against women, including a specific law prohibiting all forms of violence against women that, inter alia, criminalizes marital rape. Please indicate whether there are shelter services available for women who are victims of violence within the family and indicate the action taken to provide remedies and assistance, in addition to counselling and rehabilitation services, to all victims of domestic violence.**

Violence against women, including domestic violence, is one of the issues addressed by the Malian Demographic and Health Survey, which is undertaken every five years;

The following data come from the latest edition of that survey:

Source: Fifth Malian Demographic and Health Survey, 2012-2013

Key findings

- From the age of 15, almost four in ten women (38 per cent) have experienced physical violence, mainly at the hand of their current or most recent husband/partner (65 per cent) but also from the mother or wife of the father (20 per cent), the father or mother's husband (14 per cent) and/or a brother or sister (15 per cent).
- More than one woman in ten aged 15-49 (13 per cent) reported having been subjected to acts of sexual violence at some time in their lives.
- Among women who have already been in unions, 44 per cent have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused by their current or most recent husband.
- A quarter of women were physically injured as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months.

Percentage of women aged 15-49 who have experienced different forms of violence, by current age, Fifth Malian Demographic and Health Survey, 2012 -2013

Age group	*Physical violence only*	*Sexual violence only*	*Physical and sexual violence*	*Physical or sexual violence*	*Number of women*
15-19	31.4	2.2	5.7	39.4	667
15-17	26.5	1.2	6.2	33.9	400
18-19	38.8	3.9	4.9	47.5	267
20-24	30.4	5.2	8.4	43.9	619
25-29	28.0	2.9	12.4	43.3	672
30-39	29.1	4.1	10.4	43.6	941
40-49	26.9	2.8	7.9	37.7	560
Total	**29.2**	**3.5**	**9.1**	**41.8**	**3 459**

Violence against women in conflict situations

10. **In the report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali of 9 January 2015 (A/HRC/28/83 and Corr.1), it is mentioned that, during the conflict, the Malian armed forces raped women, including underaged girls. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights also indicated in her report of 26 June 2013 (A/HRC/23/57) that allegations had been made of abduction of and sexual violence against women and girls, especially Songhay and Bella women, by members of armed groups, including the Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest and Ansar Eddine, in the north of the country between January and December**

2012. Please provide data on the number of women who were victims of violence and the services provided for their rehabilitation and on measures taken to ensure the indictment, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of acts of violence during the conflict and the number of such cases.

At the national level, the authorities and humanitarian agencies have taken decisions to enhance the prevention and handling of cases of gender-based violence where possible.

In October 2012, the Government issued a circular calling on the courts to give special attention to cases involving victims of gender-based violence in proceedings. Four centres providing psychosocial and legal assistance to victims of sexual and gender-based violence have been established. Some of these centres also support income-generating activities for victims.

The gender-based violence subcluster distributed dignity kits to more than 25,000 women in all the regions of Mali for the treatment of cases of female genital mutilations, rape and sexually transmitted infections, childbirth and for emergency post-exposure prophylaxis

Reference maps for the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Bamako and Mopti and "Standard Operational Plans" have been drawn up to allow victims to locate services where they can receive care.

A joint project between the United Nations system and the Ministry of Defence and Former Combatants has been set up to build the capacities of the armed and security forces in the prevention of violence and protection of women and girls in conflict situations. A booklet on psychosocial care was distributed to actors involved in preventing gender-based violence. Moreover, the gender-based violence subcluster designed a standardized data collection tool which is being used to monitor sexual and gender-based violence.

United Nations agencies have trained more than 300 technical officers (State technical services and NGOs) in various domains including the prevention of and the response to gender-based violence in crisis situations as well as psychosocial care. Similarly, capacity-building activities in the medical treatment of sexual violence were conducted for health-care providers in Koulikoro, Bamako, Segou and Mopti.

Some 500 prevention and guidance messages on gender-based violence, including sexual violence, are broadcast through the media in five languages (Bambara, Tamasheq, Songhay, Peulh and French), reaching an audience of at least 2 million.

As part of its national campaign to combat violence against women and girls, the National Directorate for the Advancement of Women organized a theatre forum competition in five regions and in the Bamako District. A list of traditional and contemporary communicators focusing on gender-based violence was drawn up. A plan of action for those communicators was devised.

Examples of the humanitarian actions carried out in Bamako:

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided 2,000 rape kits to the Ministry of Women.

- The NGO "Cri du Cœur" distributed 10 tonnes of dignity kits and layettes to 110 women in the six communes of Bamako between May and November 2012.
- The NGO Catholic Relief Service distributed cash to 18,105 persons in five communes of Bamako. The National Catholic Child Bureau (BNCE) built a shelter for 287 children in Commune V in November 2012.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) assisted 1,114 persons through income-generating activities and psychosocial aid in the six communes of Bamako between June and November 2012.

Source: Greffa report on violence in northern Mali

Female victims of rape during the armed conflict in Goa and Ménaka, by age

Age	*Number*	*%*
11-15	4	8
16-20	16	33
21-25	9	18
26-30	4	8
31-35	2	4
36-40	9	18
41-45	2	4
46-50	1	2
51-55	1	2
55-60	1	2
Subtotal	**49**	**100**
Not available	**2**	
Total	**51**	

Source: Study report entitled "Justice and reparation for the women of northern Mali: analysis of testimonies of rape victims from Gao and Ménaka in northern Mali in 2012 and their legal implications".

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

11. **It is indicated in the report that a bill to combat trafficking in persons has been submitted to the National Assembly (para. 46). Please indicate whether the law has been adopted and, if it has not, indicate the measures envisaged to accelerate its adoption and entry into force. Please provide sex-disaggregated data on trafficking in persons, including on the number of victims, cases investigated, cases prosecuted and convictions and on the punishment of perpetrators. Please also provide information on the existing legal provisions relating to the criminalization of prostitution and indicate the measures taken to provide educational and economic alternatives to prostitution and to introduce exit programmes and rehabilitation and reintegration measures for women wishing to leave prostitution.**

- Since 2012, there has been a law in Mali governing human trafficking: Act No. 2012-027/PM-RM of 12 July 2012 on trafficking in persons and related practices.

Existing data on child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, by living environment and location (2012).

Unit: number and percentage

	Location											
	Kayes		*Sikasso*		*Ségou*		*Mopti*		*Bamako*		*Total*	
Child's living environment	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Station	13	4.8	47	12.4	83	27.5	39	14.7	13	5.1	195	13.2
Street	5	1.8	40	10.6	92	30.5	71	26.8	37	14.5	245	16.6
Shelters	9	3.3	4	1.1	58	19.2	5	1.9	81	31.8	157	10.7
Employers' residence	65	24.0	23	6.1	37	12.3	92	34.7	22	8.6	239	16.2
Rented quarters	175	64.6	260	68.6	30	9.9	55	20.8	22	8.6	542	36.8
Home	4	1.5	5	1.3	2	0.7	3	1.1	80	31.4	94	6.4
Total	**271**	**100.0**	**379**	**100.0**	**302**	**100.0**	**265**	**100.0**	**255**	**100.0**	**1 472**	**100.0**

Source: Study report on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Mali, 2012.

Participation in political and public life

12. **One of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review was that the State party should ensure full respect for the Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security in the management of the conflict, in particular by ensuring the effective participation of women in the political dialogue (A/HRC/23/6, para. 111.30) Please provide information on the participation of women in peacebuilding at decision-making levels, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Please also indicate how the State party envisages applying the provisions of the Convention in peacebuilding dialogues and negotiations, consistent with general recommendation No. 30.**

13. **It is indicated that discussions have been held on the drafting of a quota law allocating 30 per cent of appointed and elected positions to women. Please indicate the time frame for the adoption of the proposed bill and the measures taken to overcome the sociocultural obstacles to its adoption. Mention is also made of the 2012-2015 action plan for the participation and greater representation of women in general elections (para. 49) In view of the very low representation of women in elected and appointed positions, please provide information on further measures envisaged to achieve equal representation of women and men in appointed decision-making positions in the Government, the National Assembly, the judiciary, the civil service at the national, provincial and municipal levels and the diplomatic service, including through the adoption of temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures.**

14. **The Committee has been informed of the disproportionally high number of women without identity papers, which prevents them from voting. Please indicate the measures taken and envisaged to address that situation.**

- The law on the promotion of gender equality, establishing a 30 per cent quota in appointed and elected positions, was promulgated in November 2015.
- The 2009 nationwide civil status census resulted in the introduction of biometric identity cards that are to be used as voter registration cards. Citizens without civil status documentation were thus able to participate in the 2013 general elections.
- An assessment of the country's national civil registration system has been ongoing since September 2015. The recommendations of that study will inform a national plan of action setting out the measures needed to modernize the civil registration system and improve its reliability.

Education

15. **Various measures taken to improve the access of women and girls to education are mentioned (para. 57) and it is stated that there has been a positive impact in some areas (paras. 58 and 59). Gaps and obstacles to girls' education, such as the high dropout rate owing to child and/or forced marriage and child labour, are also identified. The low literacy rate of women is attributed to early pregnancy and the social reproduction roles of adult women, especially in rural areas, as well as other factors such as the lack of teaching materials. Please provide information and data on additional measures envisaged to: address the low literacy rate among women; increase enrolment and retention rate of girls all levels of education, including in vocational education; overcome the economic, social and cultural obstacles to girls' access to education, including the direct and indirect costs of education, child and/or forced marriage and adolescent pregnancy; and introduce a zero-tolerance policy on sexual violence and sexual harassment of girls in schools.**

I. School enrolment of girls

Gender-based violence in school environments is largely due to the behaviour of teachers and other school staff, but also to overly rigid school or class management by uninformed personnel. School violence deprives children of their psychological well-being. The worst aspect remains sexual violence inflicted on girls by adults. This abhorrent practice, resulting in teenage pregnancies, has repercussions for the future sexual behaviour of children.

Sexual violence affects the physical and mental integrity of children, in particular girls. It has a negative impact on academic success and is an important factor behind dropping out and failing at school.

Recognizing that education is a right for all, the Government of Mali has undertaken robust training and awareness activities in order to draw stakeholders' attention to the issue of academic failure by girls and to promote the elimination of discrimination against women.

As a result, the Department of Education of Mali, through the National Directorate of Primary Education and in accordance with the national gender policy, has undertaken several actions to support schooling for girls:

- Institutional efforts: establishing a division for the schooling of girls (instead of a unit) within the National Directorate of Primary Education
- Developing a national policy on schooling for girls in 2007
- Holding a focus day on girls' schooling
- Holding a forum on girls' schooling
- Conducting a study to identify obstacles within the Malian educational system affecting girls' schooling
- Holding training sessions on the harmful impact of gender-based violence
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into various curricula
- Establishing rewards and incentives for girls who achieve an attendance rate of 80 per cent per month
- Establishing affirmative action for girls who have obtained the Fundamental Studies Diploma (Diplôme d'études fondamentales) at secondary school level

The training sessions for educational stakeholders help to combat discriminatory practices harmful to girls and to reduce the number of factors in girls' academic failure.

Central and decentralized officials responsible for girls' schooling are trained on gender-based violence in schools.

Those involved in girls' schooling have been educated about the forms, causes and consequences of gender-based violence and are now able to take action to promote women's literacy and girls' schooling.

Practices in favour of girls' schooling have improved.

This includes extensive community awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of girls' attending and remaining in schools.

The strong literacy campaign, launched in 2010, has been a driving force behind the empowerment of women and their efforts for girls to attend and stay in school. Literacy programmes benefit from support measures: to overcome the economic, social and cultural obstacles to girls' access to education, including the direct and indirect costs of education, early and/or forced marriages and teenage pregnancies, through rigorous coaching for women and the creation of income-generating activities.

At part of the campaign, the Government of Mali endorsed recognizing 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment.

In the context of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), the Department of Education has established a coordination framework for girls' schooling and has adopted the relevant regulations, thereby fully legalizing the coordination framework.

This was done in accordance with the provisions set out in Decision No. 2016 00432/MEN-SG of 10 February 2016 and Decision No. 2016 00433/MEN-SG of 10 February 2016 concerning, respectively, the establishment and the operation of coordination frameworks for girls' education.

Today, all regions and all educational outreach centres have a coordination committee for girls' schooling. They are steered by the National Coordination Framework Committee for Girls' Schooling.

II. Women's literacy

Life skills-based curricula and teaching materials are being developed for functional literacy centres. These incorporate a gender dimension into implementation of the strong literacy programme launched by the State in 2008.

During the 2014-2015 campaign, 3,386 functional literacy centres taught 77,858 students, 46,898 of whom were women.

The Centre for Education in Support of Development (CED) is a non-formal education body that incorporates a gender dimension not only into student recruitment (gender parity), but also into management (through the management committee).

A non-formal education body is being designed and implemented in the context of subregional cooperation: the Education Centre for Integration (CEI) in partnership with Burkina Faso. Like CED, this non-formal education body also incorporates a gender dimension (male-female parity), not only into student recruitment (gender parity), but also into management (through the management committee).

III. Measures to overcome the economic, social and cultural obstacles to girls' access to education, including the direct and indirect costs of education

a. Specific measures

There are increasing signs of a willingness to tackle inequalities in the education sector. As a result, some indicators of gender inequality in education have been greatly reduced.

For example, the primary school gross enrolment rate by gender was 70.1 per cent in 2014, with 76.4 per cent for boys and 64.0 per cent for girls.

Primary school gross enrolment rate by gender and region

Unit: number and percentage

	2012-2013			*2013-2014*		
Region	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
Kayes	86.40	62.70	74.50	87.7	63.6	75.5
Koulikoro	95.90	73.50	84.50	91.5	72.5	81.8
Sikasso	87.70	67.60	77.40	84.2	66.0	74.9
Ségou	29.80	111.70	71.20	65.0	53.2	59.1
Mopti	53.30	52.70	53.00	56.1	55.1	55.6
Tombouctou	30.90	30.60	30.70	55.3	46.7	50.0
Gao	15.10	13.90	14.50	54.9	47.9	51.5

	2012-2013			2013-2014		
Region	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*
Kidal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bamako	91.40	89.30	90.40	87.3	86.1	86.7
Whole country	68.50	70.90	69.70	76.4	64.0	70.1

Source: National Basic Education Statistical Yearbook.

b. Evaluation of activities of the 2014 gender report

The National gender policy was implemented by the Ministry of National Education through four (4) programmes:

Programme 1: General Administration

Goal 1: Strengthen the governance structure by refocusing the work of the central services on their sovereign mission to design, coordinate and monitor public policies.

		Year			2014 Evaluation	
Indicators	*Unit*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*Projections*	*Outcomes*
1.1. Primary school gross enrolment ratio	%	81.5	76.1	71.0	81.0	70.1
1.2. Achievement rate	%	58.3	51.1	51.0	58.2	48.3
1.3. Ratio Textbooks/Students	Ratio	49	42	41	38.3	42

Programme 2: Development of Basic Education

Goal 2: Build momentum to accelerate girls' schooling in order to reduce disparities.

		Periods			2014	
Indicators	*Unit*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*Projections*	*Outcomes*
2.1. Primary school enrolment rate for girls	%	74	76.5	72.1	75.1	64
2.2. Achievement rate of girls	%	51.00	51.10	50.1	59.8	48.3

Programme 3: Development of General Secondary Education

Goal 1: Improve the quality of learning in general secondary schools.

		Outcomes			2014 Evaluation	
Indicators	*Unit*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*Projections*	*Outcomes*
1.1. Rate of baccalaureate success	Ratio	31.55	34.9	13.03	35.11	16.24

Programme 4: Strengthening and diversifying technical and vocational secondary education

Goal 2: Improve access for students, including girls, to high-growth sectors (industrial, agro-sylvo-pastoral)

		Outcomes			2014 Evaluation	
Performance indicators	*Unit*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*Projections*	*Outcomes*
2.1 Advancement rate of pupils in high-growth sectors	%	30	30	33.75	35.00	36.85
2.2 Advancement rate of girls in the industrial, agro-sylvo-pastoral and ICT sectors	%	14.66	14.67	14.75	15.00	14.7

c. *Gender-based planning and budgeting*

The actions of the Ministry of National Education are identified in four (4) programmes

Programme 1: General Administration

	Indicators					
			Targets			
	Heading	*Ref. 2014*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2016 Activities*
Goal 1: Strengthen the governance structure by refocusing the work of the central services on their sovereign mission to design, coordinate, monitor and evaluate public policies.	1.1: Primary school gross enrolment rate	70.1%	73.9%	75.9%	77.8%	1.1.1 Construction of community school infrastructure

Programme 2: Development of Basic Education

	Indicators					
			Targets			
Goals	*Heading*	*Ref. 2014*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2016 Activities*
Goal 2: Build momentum to accelerate girls' schooling to reduce disparities.	2.1. Primary school gross enrolment rate of girls	64.0%	77.1%	79.1%	81%	2.1.1 Development and implementation of a communications plan for girls' school access, retention and success 2.1.2 Support for girls in scientific fields

	Indicators					
			Targets			
Goals	*Heading*	*Ref 2014*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2016 Activities*
						2.1.3 Monitoring the effective implementation of fair classroom practices for female teachers
						2.1.4 Conducting studies on reasons for low enrolment of girls, on violence against girls in schools and on discrimination
	2.2. Achievement rate for girls in primary school	44.0%	65.6%	71.4%	75.4%	2.2.1 Creation of support courses for girls
						2.2.2 Gender training for teachers and school administrators
?						2.2.3 Organization of award ceremonies for girls for attendance and performance
						2.2.4 Oversight of decentralized activities by the central level
						2.2.5 Development of monitoring and evaluation tools for girls' schooling project (SCOFI) representatives at teaching academies and educational outreach centres

Programme 3: Development of General Secondary Education

	Indicators					
			Targets			
Goals	*Heading*	*Ref. 2014*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2016 Activities*
Goal 1: Improve the quality of learning in general secondary education.	1.1 Rate of baccalaureate success	16.24%	23%	26%	30%	1.1.1 Initial and continuing education for inspectors 1.1.2 Follow-up to reform implementation 1.1.3 Training for school management committees on project formulation at general secondary education institutions

Programme 4: Consolidating and diversifying technical and vocational secondary education

	Indicators					
			Targets			
Goals	*Heading*	*Ref. 2014*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*	*2016 Activities*
Goal 3: Improve access for students, including girls, to the industrial and agro-pastoral sectors	3.1 Advancement rate of girls studying in the industrial, agro-sylvo-pastoral and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors	14.7	20%	25%	30%	Activities 2016 3.1.1 Building and equipping two (2) vocational training institutes, including one (1) with an agro-pastoral specialization, and equipping two (2) technical secondary schools; rehabilitating and equipping two (2) vocational training institutes in northern regions National Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education (DNETP) 3.1.2 Developing and monitoring the implementation of an action and communications plan focused on girls' access to high-growth sectors in technical and vocational secondary education, private institutions

Employment

16. **It is indicated that, notwithstanding favourable legislative and regulatory provisions on equal remuneration for work of equal value, on average, women are still paid less than men. It is also indicated that women are specifically prohibited from taking certain jobs. Please provide information on the measures taken to: ensure equal pay for work of equal value, including by addressing occupational segregation of women in the public and the private sectors and promoting access by women to higher-paying decision-making positions; ensure that protective measures for women are strictly limited to maternity and not based on stereotypical perceptions of their abilities and their role in society; and protect girls from exploitative child labour, including begging. Please indicate whether the State party has taken measures to ensure that women working in the informal sector and in rural areas are covered equally by the social protection system.**

The Government of Mali has established a national health insurance agency for the poor, including women and girls in difficult circumstances.

Number of poor beneficiaries of the medical assistance scheme in 2014

Unit: number

Type of member / *Gender*	*Eligibility*	*Eligible from 0-21 years*	*Legal beneficiaries*
Male	3 421	918	2 012
Female	3 285	881	1 932
Total	**6 706**	**1 799**	**3 944**

NB: Legal beneficiaries = charitable institutions and prison inmates.
Source: National Medical Assistance Agency, Annual Report 2014.

Health

17. **Various measures taken to improve access by women and girls to health care are mentioned (paras. 95 and 97). Please indicate whether the impact of those measures has been assessed in order to take corrective measures when necessary. Please indicate the measures envisaged to further address: the inadequate funding of the health sector; the persistently high maternal mortality ratio; and the limited access to basic health-care services and essential obstetric care, including as a result of poverty and the existence of sociocultural barriers, in particular among women living in rural areas.**

18. **Please provide information on measures envisaged to address: the lack of comprehensive age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including for adolescents enrolled in school and those out of school; the availability, affordability and accessibility of modern contraceptives and family planning services, including for adolescents; and the challenge of people associating the use of contraceptives with promiscuity, which leads adolescents to be secretive about their sexual activities and results in clandestine and unsafe abortion. Please indicate whether the State party envisages legalizing abortion when the physical and mental health of the mother are at risk and in**

cases of severe fetal impairment. Please provide data on the number and proportion of women in detention following a conviction for illegal abortion.

19. **Please indicate the measures taken to address the disproportionately high rate of HIV/AIDS among women living in prostitution.**

Disadvantaged groups of women

20. **Please also indicate the measures envisaged to ensure that female detainees are held separately from male detainees, that female guards are in charge of their supervision and that gender-sensitive measures are in place to ensure appropriate treatment, in particular for pregnant women and women detained with their children.**

Women's quarters have increasingly been established in prisons in the regions exception for the Bamako District, which has a separate detention centre for women.

Proportion of prisons with women's/juvenile quarters in 2014

Unit: Number and percentage

	Prisons		
Region	*Total*	*Number with quarters*	*% with quarters*
Kayes	8	4	50.00
Koulikoro	11	4	36.36
Sikasso	9	3	33.33
Ségou	10	2	20.00
Mopti	8	1	12.50
Tombouctou	5	1	20.00
Gao	4	1	25.00
Kidal	1	1	100.00
Bamako District	3	2	66.67
All of Mali	59	19	32.20

Source: Strategic Planning Unit/Justice sector, Annual Report 2014.